

V'ahavta... ואהבת



"Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child"

Dec. 2, 2016 2 Kislev, 5777

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Candle Lighting

Friday, Dec. 2
4:33 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3
Shabbat ends
5:36 p.m.



Saturday, Dec. 3
NO PCL Program

Sunday, Dec. 4
RUN-A-LATKE
9:30 a.m. @ WJCC

Monday, Dec. 5
Soccer
3:40 - 4:55 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Chess Club
3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 7
Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8
Mishmar
3:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Middle School Career Program

The RTA CED (Career Education and Development) program for middle school students welcomed Dr. Allen Cohen, renowned inventor, optometrist, patent attorney and entrepreneur, for our second presentation on November 17th. The students gathered to hear and learn from Dr. Cohen's immense knowledge on a variety of issues.

Dr. Cohen began the talk by explaining different career paths and comparing the benefits of owning your own business versus working for someone else. He then polled the class to see who had aspirations of being an entrepreneur themselves (a surprisingly high number!).

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RTA's Thanksgiving Assembly Supports the Midor L'dor Program

On the Monday before Thanksgiving the entire school came together for an assembly to share Thanksgiving creations. Each grade level chose what to make. Some chose to decorate placemats, while others chose posters, greeting cards or decorations. The students presented their artwork which highlighted things for which they are thankful.

Mrs. Stansell and Mr. Miller took 8th grade students Esther Miller and Chana Reinke to Beth Shalom Home to give the Thanksgiving cards to the residents and spread some Thanksgiving cheer. Mrs. Winkelmann met the group there to take some pictures and capture some great moments.



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Middle School Career Program

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Dr. Cohen enumerated the many decisions and challenges that face a new business owner. He did so by drawing from his own experiences starting a chain of doughnut shops.

Dr. Cohen then switched his focus to show the students that the best chance of success and fulfillment in a career is choosing an area that one is passionate about and truly loves. That led our speaker to his eventual career in combining his love of physics and ophthalmology to develop his very complex, most successful invention - a contact lens bifocal using a hologram. That unique invention was eventually patented and is now used in about 90% of contact lens bifocals! This continued to a discussion on the inner workings of the human eye and what would have to happen to cure certain types of blindness.

The program ended with a short Q&A from our inquisitive students on a range of topics.

We thank Dr. Cohen for his fascinating presentation and look forward to hearing from many more interesting career speakers in the coming months!



THE HABIB FAMILY **RUN-A-LATKE** **FAMILY FUN 5K AND ONE-MILER**

To benefit Weinstein JCC and Rudlin Torah Academy



**Sunday,
 DECEMBER 4**

**One-Miler:
 9:30 a.m.**

**5K:
 10:00 a.m.**

**Start and Finish
 at Weinstein JCC
 5403 Monument Avenue**

**After the run,
 stick around and enjoy a post-race
 party with food and fun for the entire family,
 and of course...latkes!***

Runners of all levels take part in the Run-A-Latke! Our 5K and One-Miler are also accessible to the special needs community. Volunteer buddy-runners will be available upon request. For more information contact Missy Bunce at 545-8658.

One-Miler	5K	
\$25 Through Dec. 3	Individual	Family (up to 4 entrants)
\$35 Race Day	\$40 Through Dec. 3	\$125 Through Dec. 3
	\$50 Race Day	\$140 Race Day

*Latkes are delicious potato pancakes that are a traditional part of Chanukah celebrations.

**Sign up today at runsignup.com or call
 Margret O'Keefe at the Weinstein JCC at 545-8609.**

Run-A-Latke Volunteers Needed - Volunteers are needed for setup along the course during the race and to serve food. Please contact Diane Goldberg to signup ([804.929.7951](tel:804.929.7951) or pdgoldberg@hotmail.com).

RTA's Thanksgiving Assembly Supports the Midor L'dor Program

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Esther and Chana enjoyed sharing the Thanksgiving cards and talking with the residents. Mrs. Stansell got to put some PE skills to use as she danced the "Electric Slide" with some of the residents. It was definitely a fun afternoon.

The Beth Shalom residents were so grateful to receive the children's cards and decorations and to be visited by some of the RTA students. RTA helped make their Thanksgiving special.



IMPACT
GRANTS

TLC Magic

TLC means Tender Loving Care, but at RTA, it also stands for **Teens Learning with Children**. The magic begins when each kindergartner is matched up with a Shaarei Torah High School girl.

The kindergartners learn one-on-one with their own TLC partners each week. It is a great way for students to receive personal attention that is suited to the children's specific learning styles. The nurturing and warm atmosphere they create help to foster a love of reading Hebrew that is felt far into the child's future. This successful program was introduced to RTA by Morah Perel Sherman and Mrs. Noa Klestzick of Shaarei Torah twelve years ago.

Often, there will be a spontaneous cheer by the kindergartners when the Shaarei Torah girls come into the classroom. Mrs. Klestzick is certain that the high school girls' excitement matches the joy of the kindergartners on Thursday, TLC Day. The warmth and camaraderie between the kindergartners and their 'big sisters' adds so much to the family feeling in the school.



Third and Fourth Grade Science Museum Trip

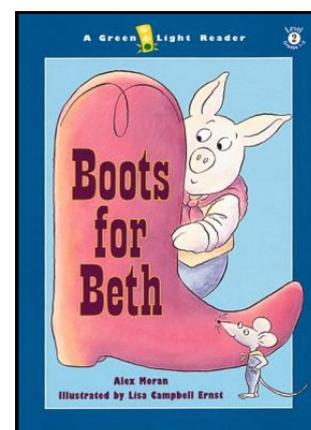
Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Lessin took the third and fourth graders to the Science Museum of Virginia on Wednesday to see a live animal presentation.

A big thank you to our drivers/chaperones: Mrs. Gunzberg, Mr. Klein, Mrs. Klestzick, Mr. Rakofsky, Mrs. Sheldon, and Mrs. Yadin.



First Grade Celebrates Boot Day

"Boot Day" is always a fun day in the first grade. The students in Mrs. Stansell's class all wore boots to celebrate the story of the week, "Boots for Beth". "Boots for Beth" is a fantasy about wonderful animal friends helping each other. The students enjoyed making character maps of all the characters from the story. The first graders also learned how to take an Accelerated Reader quiz on this story using the first grade chrome books. It is always fun in first grade with or without boots!





Art Auction

Event to benefit
RTA Richmond Hebrew Day School

on
Sunday, January 29, 2017

at the Weinstein JCC

5403 Monument Avenue, Richmond VA 23226

Preview: 6:00 p.m. Auction: 7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$18.00 per person

Wine, Hors D'oeuvres and Dessert

For tickets or more information, please email:

Yali Klestzick at yalicb@gmail.com

Send check payable to: RTA PVA, 3809 Patterson Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

Major credit cards accepted for art purchases

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Parsha Points

Each week we feature an article on the weekly Torah portion.

Toldos (Genesis 25:19-28:9)

To Each Their Own

In this week's Torah portion, we see that while Esav is a man of violent nature, Yaakov is very much his opposite. The Sages tell us that even in the womb, when Rebecca passed a temple of idols, Esav would be pushing to get out, and when she passed a place of Torah study, Yaakov did the same. A message to be gleaned from this Midrash - an understanding that from their very conception, Esav was pulled toward evil and Yaakov towards good.

But how can that be? Surely free will is the cornerstone of Jewish philosophy! How can these two individuals be held responsible for their actions if they were programmed in this way from day one?

The answer is a fundamental facet of life: Each of us faces different challenges. Some are born with an angry disposition. Some are born with a sensual nature. Some are born with a nature that yearns for money. Some are born lazy. For each human being the test is different. That's why we cannot compare people accurately, nor can we judge. Who are we to know the challenges with which another is faced? But Hashem, the ultimate Judge, does indeed know how capable an individual is of conquering his or her demons within...

Esav was born with a violent nature - the most striking manifestation of this was his being born with an unusually ruddy complexion. His challenge in life was to subdue this nature, to harness his passion, and channel it into bringing positive change to the world. He could use his anger in the spiritual battle against evil. Use his passion to bring others to truth. He was not forced to walk down a path of murder and debauchery. It was a path he very much chose for himself.

Our Sages do indeed point to another famous individual in our Torah who had a similar in-born, innate tendency toward spilling blood. But instead of using that trait for criminal activity and destructive violence, **he** channeled it to become a mighty warrior who fought the battles of Hashem – vanquishing the enemies of the Jewish people time and time again. He was one of the greatest leaders the Jewish people ever knew.....King David.

And Esav could have made the very same choice for himself.

But what of Yaakov? If he was inclined to goodness and spirituality from the very outset - what was *his* test?

Yaakov's test was much more subtle in nature. The challenge of the genius is whether he or she will push to the fullest potential, or be satisfied with being just one step ahead of the crowd. It is fascinating to ponder, when one sees individuals of great stature who were

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brought up in a strong spiritual environment – would they have been the same with a less sheltered, protected upbringing? And oftentimes we don't realize how much work a righteous individual performs in order to exceed the level at which they were educated and trained. Greatness lies not in where you get, but in how far you come. The destination doesn't matter as much as the journey.

To become a righteous person - after having that nature from birth and being brought up in Isaac's holy home - was no great challenge for Yaakov. The question was whether he was going to become **more** than that. Would he going to strive for greatness instead of just goodness? Yaakov could have settled for mediocrity in the same way as his brother settled for immorality. And had he done so, his mistake would have been similar to Esav's!

But Yaakov chose differently – he took the hand he was dealt, his G-d given gifts and his righteous upbringing, to become unimaginable greater than when he started! He was not content to rest on his laurels as the son of Yitzchak and the grandson of Avraham. He consistently worked on himself and grew spiritually, to become not only the third patriarch – Yaakov Avinu - but the “choicest” of them all.

Life is a ladder. Some of us start on a low rung, some much higher.

In the end, what G-d looks at is how much we climb during our years in this world.

Adapted with permission from the award winning website, www.aish.com.